Aldo Leopold Audubon Society

BOARD MEETING 02/12/25

12 February 2025 / 7:04 PM Meeting start

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Dostal, Rob Pendergast, Susan Schuller, Willow Pingel, Sarah Wood, Scott Reilly, Brad Baum, Ned Grossnickle, Janet Smith, Jan Seiler, Joe Schulz, Brad Branwell-Zinda, Bob Lane

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- **Announcements**
    - Update on name exploration committee
    - Tabling at Prairie Chicken Festival (April 7 - 12)
    - Rescheduling March meeting

NOTES

- **Approval of Minutes** Motion by Janet S., seconded by Susan S.; carried & approved

INTRODUCTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

End of Year Report (Karen D.)

- Report must be completed to get membership dues owed by National Audubon
- Last year worth about $1,100
- Karen completed

Bird City Application (Janet S.)

- Almost everything updated, Janet just waiting to hear about migratory bird day this year
    - Application due March 15

An Otter Runs Through It Program

- Wednesday February 19, 7 pm
    - Shawn Rossler to be introduced by Brad

DISCUSSION ITEMS

World Migratory Bird Day (Janet S.)

- Information needed regarding what we have planned vs. Schmeeckle & Boston School Forest
- Children's Bird Banding/Youth Day May 17th
- Coordinate with Schmeeckle Reserve
    - Karen to e-mail Jim Buchholz to add this event to calendar for 7am to 12pm
    - May need to fill out scientific study form & waders will be helpful
    - Need volunteers afternoon of 16th to set up nets
- Rob will likely do bird walk as well

Boston School Forest Earth Day Event April 13 1-4pm

- April 13th from 1pm to 4pm; 900 attendees last year
- Asking that ALAS tables with an activity; owl pellet dissection
- Volunteers needed to do bird walk activities

Applying for a Credit Card

- Business card may make organizing trips (e.g. crane trip) easier
    - Concerns: needs to be tied to organization rather than one person
    - Timing: perhaps revisit after election
- Explore other options:
    - PayPal, Zelle, Venmo, debit card, etc.
    - New Treasurer can talk to bank about options
- Return to this discussion later

March 12 Meeting Date Change

- Chris Cooper of Extraordinary Birder on National Geographic speaking about his experiences as a Black birder in Madison on Wednesday, March 12th
- Moving meeting date from the 12th to Thursday, March 13th to allow members to go/watch

Prairie Chicken Festival

- Taking place at 3471 Cty Rd C Stevens Point on Saturday, April 12th
- Set up Saturday morning at 7am; everything must be taken down at 11:30am
    - Exhibitor space indoors w/6ft table
- Scott can maybe run table; revisit at March Meeting

Name Change Sub-Committee

- Susan, Janet & Karen met w/members of other local chapters that have changed org. names
    - Asked why they changed & what the process was like
    - Heard from Milwaukee Audubon that they will not be exploring change and why
- ALAS will keep exploring this
    - Per our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusivity, we voted as a group last year to move forward with this
    - Form sub-committee to research & membership outreach, then provide recommendation in September about whether name should change & next steps
- Potential information sources & ideas:
    - Speaker Matt Reetz, Executive Director for Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance from Madison
    - Hosting special presentation for members on UWSP campus during Earth Day Week
    - Book: The Birds that Audubon Missed by Kenn Kaufman

    - Online forms for membership feedback; focus groups
- Link on website to sub-committee form for volunteers under sub-committee tab
    - Resources provided there as well to answer questions

ACTION ITEMS

Statewide National Audubon Collaborative Initiative (Karen D.)

- Audubon Great Lakes has $6000 to disburse for local chapters that want to collaborate on an event
- Camping trip to Crex Meadows Saturday June 14th
    - Open to all chapters, cover costs for camping & transportation & birding guide
    - Grantsburg Brewery nearby
- Karen to e-mail Audubon Great Lakes regional director & return to discussion next meeting

Grants to Discuss (Bob L.)

- **Boston School Forest** Set of owl pellets for kids to examine + equipment
    - Total: $300
- **Central Sands Community High School** Camera, suet feeders & suet
    - Set up suet feeders in different locations with different food & cover, monitor with bluetooth, night vision camera
    - Total: $163
    - Would like to continue working with school on future projects
- **Plover River Crossing** Birdhouses along crossing for March
    - Total: $300
    - Money to reimburse Bob for materials for as many bird houses can be built out of cedar; Brad B-Z. can provide poles
    - Habitat good for several different species
- **Total of $763.70 for three grants**
    - Motion to approve funding for three grants by Susan S., seconded by Jan S.; carried & approved unanimously

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Almanac (Lora H.)

- Newsletter deadline 2/28/25

Website (Rob P.)

- February program and agenda up
- Discord up and running

Field Trips (Brad B.)

- Snowshoe hike field trip last Saturday; actually had snow!
- Wants to start submitting what you missed article to our newsletter for most recent field trips
- Field trip coming up in March to Platte River; working on scheduling in person meet and greet evening of 27th or 28th
    - Susan to send packing list to Brad

Publicity (Brad B-Z.)

- Everything up for An Otter Runs Through it next week w/Shawn Rossler
    - Brad will introduce him
- Next month's speakers write-up done; posted on FB

Membership (Janet S.)

- Janet will be gone and will not be able to do newsletter; Susan can take laptop for newsletter mailing list duties

Education (Bob L.)

- Great Gray Owls irruption at Sax-Zim Bog in Minnesota
- Potential field trip location for next year

Conservation (Rob P.)

- Email drafted to send to UWSP for bird friendly windows
- Membership should be updated on bird flu; Rob will research
- Proposed developments for Rib Mountain State Park
    - Loss of habitat will impact threatened Acadian flycatchers

    - Public hearing Thursday, February 13th from 6pm to 7pm at Marathon County Public Library

Recruitment Committee

- Willow P. and Scott R. to contact BOD members

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm